

# The Philatelic Communicator

## Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30

—30—



www.wu30.org

First Quarter 2011

## Bestselling Author Has Foot in Philatelic Door



**Kelly Putter**

Unlike many a nay-saying philatelist, there's actually a very bright future for the hobby of stamp collecting, according to the person who's built his career on predicting future trends.

Demographer David K. Foot, best known for his hugely popular *Boom Bust and Echo* books, believes those interested in growing the hobby – any hobby, really – should refocus their energy mainly on the 50-plus baby boomers instead of the younger market.

"So there's a huge market for the hobbies, but they keep marketing to kids," Foot said recently from his office at the University of Toronto. "The future for stamp collecting is the 50-plus market. We should have much more mature books for the person coming back to the hobby. And for women as well. So that leads to a huge opportunity to market the hobbies – stamps and coins. We need to pay a lot more attention to boomers in their 50s and 60s."

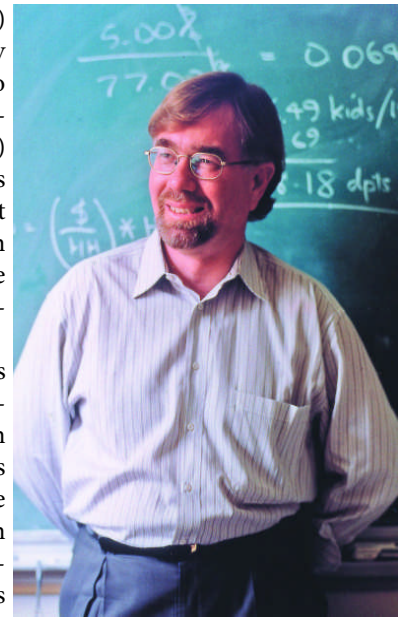
As for the younger, entry-level collectors, Foot says there is plenty of opportunity to grow that group, but it must be done through technology, not books.

A longtime philatelist, Foot is retiring from his position as an economics professor at the University of Toronto. He now plans to spend more time on the lecture circuit, traveling and pursuing his beloved stamps and accompanying displays.

"I've often used (philately) as an escape back to my childhood," says Foot, who grew up on a farm in Western Australia. "(The hobby) is very relaxing and connects me with my youth. Now that I'm older and retiring, I'm spending a lot more time with my hobby and I'm enjoying it."

Born in the U.K., Foot's family immigrated to Australia, where he grew up an only child on his parent's dairy and fruit farm outside of Perth. When he wasn't booting about on his bicycle, he was poring over stamps after his mother introduced him to the hobby when he was six. Foot credits his stamp collecting with his consistent top-of-the-class results in geography.

Like many philatelists before him, Foot collected until he was about 16, when other interests beckoned. Obtaining an undergraduate economics degree in Australia, Foot decided he would



**Economics Professor David Foot**

Foot Continued Page 3

## Participate in the Society

### Call for Nominations - Officers and Council Members

The odd-numbered years are election years for WU#30. According to the Bylaws, "The officers shall be elected for two-year terms, while members of the Council shall serve terms of four years, with one-half of the Council being elected at two-year intervals." (Please notice the call for Hall of Fame nominations elsewhere in the *PC*). Members wishing to stand for election should make themselves known to the nominating committee or may run for office by petition. Such nominations by petition

"shall be made with the support and signatures of at least ten (10) members in good standing, and sent to the Secretary-Treasurer." The deadline for the receipt of all nominations by the committee on nominations as well as by petition is April 1, 2011.

Positions to be filled in the 2011 election include president, vice president east, vice president west, secretary-treasurer, and at least three members of the Council. The terms of office for

Nominations Continued Page 13



# The Philatelic Communicator

ISSN 0147-36456

Volume 45, No. 1, Whole No. 171

David E. Crotty, Editor  
P.O. Box 16115  
Ludlow, KY 41016-0115  
decrotty@yahoo.com  
859.360.0676

Lloyd de Vries, Associate Editor  
P.O. Box 1249,  
Washington Township, NJ 0767-1249  
stamps@pobox.com

Writers Unit #30, a nonprofit organization, publishes *The Philatelic Communicator* four times a year. A subscription to TPC is included with dues paid by members of the Unit. TPC is printed and distributed by Wilcox Printing & Publishing, Inc., Madrid, Iowa.  
©2011 Writers Unit #30. Certain aspects of the design may resemble Albert Starkweather's copyrighted design. Title page drawings by Peter Boylan.

Manuscripts are solicited on subjects of interest to writers, editors, and publishers of all forms of philatelic literature. All submissions for publication, without exception, are subject to being edited. Electronic submissions are preferred. Opinions expressed in *The Philatelic Communicator* are those of the authors, and not necessarily of the Writers Unit #30, its officers, editor, publisher, or agents. Letters and e-mails received by the editor may be printed unless labeled "Not for Publication." Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy, but validity is not guaranteed. Some product names and images may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation, without intent to infringe. All editorial matters must be handled by the editor.

## Deadlines for receipt of copy by the editor:

First Quarter: January 15      Second Quarter: April 15  
Third Quarter: June 15      Fourth Quarter: October 15

## APS Writers Unit #30

### Peter Martin, President

P.O. Box 463, Naugatuck, CT 06770-0463  
pmartin2525@yahoo.com

### George B. Griffenhagen, Secretary-Treasurer

12226 Cathedral Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192-2232  
703.966.1739 dcsmith3477@gmail.com

### Lloyd de Vries, Vice President East

P.O. Box 1249, Washington Township NJ 07676-1249  
stamps@pobox.com

### Kenneth Tretin, Vice President West

P.O. Box 56, Rockford, IA 50468-0056  
revenue@omnitelcom.com

The **Executive Committee** includes the officers, Editor, and Immediate Past President  
Dane S. Claussen dsclaussen@hotmail.com  
The **WU#30 Council** includes

Francis Adams.....fran@franadams.com (2011)  
Foster Miller.....fmiller@pobox.com (2013)  
Ernest F. (Gene) Fricks.....genefricks@comcast.net (2013)  
Robert P. Odenweller.....RPOdenwel@cs.com (2013)  
David A. Kent.....Kentdave@aol.com (2013)

### Writers Unit #30 Committee Chairs are:

APS rep.: George B. Griffenhagen	Publications: Peter Martin
Awards: Robert P. Odenweller	Publicity: Ernest E. (Gene) Fricks
Bylaws: Katrina Everhart	Recruiting: Lloyd de Vries
Critique Service: Dane S. Claussen	Special Events: Kenneth Tretin
Hall of Fame: Peter Martin	USPS Representative: Peter Martin
Historian: Steven J. Rod	Webmaster: Todd Ronei
Literature Exhibitions: James W. Graue	WU #30 Breakfast: Lloyd de Vries
Nominating: Alan Warren	



## David Crotty From the Editor

### Demographics and Philately

As the editor of the *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin* I watch the membership slide each year. I wonder if we are doing something wrong. As I approach the keyboard to build my first issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* I have pretty much the same thoughts. The WU30 has lost about 15% of its membership over the last 10 years or so. That actually is not bad for small philatelic societies. But I wonder still.

The headline article provides a rare view of our hobby from a well known Canadian demographer, David Foot. This guy usually presents his views to industry groups, providing them insight into the ebbs and flows of human populations and how these affect the markets and marketing of goods. Here he provides some insight into who might become the next members of our philatelic societies.

He really lays the burden on us, the writers and publishers of philatelic literature. If he is right, it is our job to provide the writing that will attract people in their middle ages who are searching for a hobby. These people may have dabbled in stamps in their childhood. They are likely fairly successful in their carriers and perhaps the children have or will soon be out of the nest. They probably are fairly sophisticated in their tastes.

Yes its great to get the youngsters excited about stamps. I just got a fourth grader started and it was really fun to see his excitement. Not sure how to keep that enthusiasm up as he gets older.

But, the real hobbyist is the adult. Some will be younger folk as they start their carriers. Most well be the older ones. How do we attract these people? Can we provide the literature that can make the difference?

So what is needed? Certainly the journals and newspapers in our hobby are well written and filled with well researched material. But something seems to be missing. We have an increasing population of potential members of our societies but our memberships are dropping.

At the same time the goal of this journal is to provide a forum where writers, editors and publishers share their experiences. In my tenure at the *MSS Bulletin* I found that it is quite true: "If you build it they will come." I hope that is true here.

### History

One thing I notice is that there is no Index of past articles in *The Philatelic Communicator*. A journal without an article index has no history. We have no memory of our past. George Griffenhagen has one for earlier years but it is not up to date. We will work on that and we will put it on the website. We also plan to put past issues back to about 2000 on the website.

*Dave*



## Peter Martin *President's View*

### AmeriStamp Expo 2011

At the APS AmeriStamp Expo, the February 13 WU30 Sunday breakfast at the Charleston (S.C.) Convention Center had another good turnout. I was unable to attend and Vice President Lloyd de Vries handled the ceremonies. Council member David Kent was the featured speaker and provided a well-received presentation about the future of philately.

### Position Changes

Since the fall several position changes have occurred. As you'll note from the masthead, David Crotty has taken over as editor of *The Philatelic Communicator*. David, a retired chemist from Park Hills, Ky., is an experienced writer and editor who has been editing the *Meter Stamp Bulletin* since 2005. Lloyd de Vries has agreed to assist him. Lloyd has also taken over the duties of WU30 Breakfast chairman.

We are also fortunate in adding a highly qualified webmaster to our team. Todd Ronnei, from Eden Prairie, Minn., is also the webmaster for the American First Day Cover Society. Todd has already updated and upgraded our site. Visit [www.wu30.org](http://www.wu30.org) to get the latest news and information about WU30 activities.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that Foster Miller III has joined us by filling a council vacancy. Foster, from Annapolis Junction, Md. is well known in philatelic circles and brings significant experience to the council.

### WU#30 2011 Election

We're in an election year for the unit and the ballot will appear in the second quarter issue. Watch for it and be sure to vote.

### StampShow 2011

It's not too early to start making plans for the American Philatelic Society's StampShow 2011, which will be held August 11-14 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. In addition to our Hall of Fame and literature award presentations, we're lining up some special features and I hope to see many of you there.



## Kehr Award to Lloyd de Vries Foster Miller

Lloyd de Vries of New Jersey was presented the Ernest A. Kehr Award, which is awarded for enduring contributions that guarantee the future of the hobby. John Hotchner presented Lloyd the award and read an excerpt from the nomination that cited Lloyd for his weekly CBS Radio Network Stamp Collecting Report whose target audience is potential stamp collectors, not the experienced philatelist and for his efforts to encourage beginning stamp collectors on the Virtual Stamp Club, which he founded, operates, and funds.

Congratulations Lloyd!



Foot from Page 1

like to see the world, but was limited with little money. A mentor from his university insisted he apply to graduate school and the notion appealed to Foot's wanderlust. His scholarship to Harvard would be his ticket out of Down Under.

"Suddenly, I discovered this was a serious game," recalls Foot of his Ivy League education. "I was dealing with a very serious group of people. There was no excess time or money for anything but study."

And study he did, earning a doctorate in economics, which would ultimately net him a position at the University of Toronto. Being at the head of the baby boom – that's someone born around 1947 – Foot, who won't reveal his exact age, had plenty of employment offers that included ones from the U.S. and Australia as well as Canada.

As a structural economist and statistician, Foot began zeroing in on demographics because he was more interested in how people spend their time and money and how societal structures influence markets. His research focuses on the fact that people age and with that go a host of economic demands and societal trends that affect health care, housing, crime and so on.

"I often say demographics are two-thirds of everything," explains Foot. "It's not everything, but it's a heck of a foundation on which to build a long-run strategic plan."

In the 1990s, Foot teamed up with journalist Daniel Stoffman, who'd written a piece about Foot in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* that was titled "Completely predictable people." Stoffman would write Foot's theories, which Foot had audio-taped, and the result was *Boom, Bust & Echo: How to Profit from the Coming Demographic Shift*, which would sell more than 350,000 copies and stay on the bestseller list for more than two years.

During his 37-year tenure, Foot not only gained recognition as the country's leading demographer, but also became something of a public speaker, an area he intends to pursue more vigorously as he retires from teaching. In addition, Foot's love of teaching was rewarded by numerous awards. Twice, he won the U of Toronto undergraduate teaching award and he was the first professor to win the national 3M award for teaching excellence.

Just back from speaking engagements in Bologna, Italy and Monterrey, Calif., the energetic and affable Foot jokes that it's tough getting from Italy to California in a short span of time. Lately, he's given two or three talks on philately, something he'd never had time for before.

"I'm a roving academic, if you like," he says of his corporate public speaking engagements. "I use my research and apply it to their industry. I'm the outsider looking in." Speaking recently at a corporate group of Tetra Pak milk carton makers, Foot relied on his research to talk about the advantages of marketing their product to 50-plus women at risk of osteoporosis.

"You can take demographics to almost anything," he said, adding that the shrinking auto industry is directly related to the fact that baby boomers are aging and not needing as many vehicles as they once did. The industry, he adds, should never have been bailed out.

Foot points to the power of demographics in his predictions about declining school enrolment, which he first spoke of in the late 1980s. "We should worry about college and university enrolment. They're already plummeting in Nova Scotia and New

Foot continued Page 10





## Alan Warren National Postal Museum Notes



## Reviews Print & Electronic

### Finding Tools at the National Postal Museum: The Pontifical States

One of the more recent Finding Guides posted on the National Postal Museum's web site, [www.postalmuseum.si.edu/findingguides/index.html](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/findingguides/index.html), is that of the Specialized Collection of Pontifical State Postal Markings. The collection was donated to the National Postal Museum (NPM), in two installments during the 1950s, by Irvin Hermanoff, the brothers William and Seymour Winokur, and Lawrence Hollander. In 1963 the museum reorganized and remounted the collection that now fills 27 volumes.

The Pontifical State in central Italy was ruled by the Pope for centuries. It was comprised of the areas of Romagna, Marche, Umbria, and Lazio. The Pontifical State eventually had a population of 3 million and even issued its own stamps, Figure 1, in the 1850s and 60s. The state collapsed in 1870 when Rome was declared the capital of the new Italian Kingdom. The pontifical posts were integrated into the Italian system until 1929 when the Vatican was recognized and began issuing its own stamps.

The volumes are arranged alphabetically by town cancels beginning with Acqualanga in volume 1 through Zagarolo in volume 26. The 27<sup>th</sup> volume contains 29 pages of items postmarked with miscellaneous town cancels or bearing auxiliary markings and cachets. The finding guide concludes with a bibliography for further study of the Pontifical State postal service, its stamps, and postal history.

This finding guide was prepared by Daniel A. Piazza, assistant curator of philately, with the help of volunteer research assistant Amelia B. Kile and museum specialist James O'Donnell. These NPM finding guides offer researchers the opportunity to learn what is in any of its collections. If further research is to be undertaken by collectors or students, an appointment can be made with the NPM staff to view any of these specialized collections. ☞

Figure 1. Pontifical States Disinfected cover with slits on front to allow fumigation with chlorine or sulfur gases.



## Books & Catalogues

### Large U.S. Banknotes Guide

*Large U.S. Banknotes Identification Guide* by Bob Pipes and Steve Einhorn. American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte, Pa., 2010. Saddlestiched, 8.5 x 11 inch, 27pp., illus. Available for \$15 postpaid (\$20 to non APS members) to U.S. addresses from: American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823; Phone (814) 933-3803; Web [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org).

For collectors of the United States large banknotes, the *Large U.S. Banknotes Identification Guide* by Bob Pipes and Steve Einhorn is a small package chock full of critical information to aid collectors in identifying this popular 19<sup>th</sup> century collecting area.

The Large Banknote stamps were produced by the National, Continental and American Banknote companies from 1870-1888 and while you won't get much of the historical data about these

### Large U.S. Banknotes Identification Guide



Bob Pipes • Steve Einhorn

Continued Page 5

stamps, you do get essential guidance about how to identify the stamps, which had numerous color, paper and grill varieties.

You'll get super large magnification of the stamps in full color and pull-outs that show the secret marks and key identification features. In addition, for each stamp the authors provide an identification strategy, grill chart and a summary table. A discussion about how to identify the paper types concludes the handbook.

Collectors familiar with the Scott Micarelli *Identification Guide to U.S. Stamps*, which includes the U.S. Large Banknotes, will find that this APS guide goes well beyond the scope of that prominent tome in assisting collectors to properly identify these issues.

Whether you collect the Large Banknotes or are simply trying to find out if you have a common or rare stamp, this handbook will serve you well.

-Peter Martin

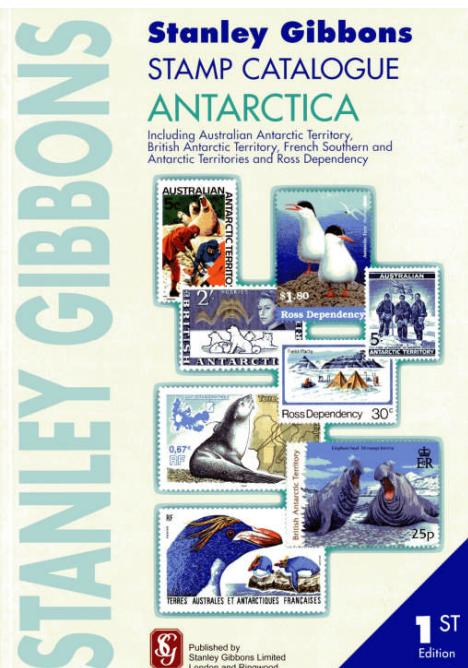
*Editors Note: Sales of this book have been phenomenal and is nearly sold out, according to APS executive Director Ken Martin, reporting at the membership meeting in Charleston in February.*

---

## Antarctica Stamp Catalogue

**Stamp Catalogue Antarctica**, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Stanley Gibbons. 112 pages, 6 ¾ by 9 ½ inches, perfect bound, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., Ringwood, United Kingdom, 2010. ISBN 13: 978-0-85259-757-6, £15.95 plus postage from your favorite philatelic supply dealer or directly from the publisher Stanley Gibbons Publications, 7 Parkside, Christchurch Rd., Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SH, United Kingdom; [www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com).

This is a new catalog in the Gibbons line and includes Australian Antarctic Territory, British Antarctic Territory, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, and Ross Dependency, i.e. the stamp issuing entities in the Antarctic area. However, there is more of interest than just the stamps of this region. Covered within this slim volume are Antarctic Expeditions (Victoria Land), Graham Land, South Orkney Islands, South Shetland Islands, and Falkland Islands Dependencies up to 1963.



The catalog begins with the usual boiler plate material found in the SG catalogs including information and guidelines on using the reference work, some abbreviations that might be encountered, and an international philatelic glossary (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian). Steve Pendleton's article on Shackleton and the *Nimrod* expedition, that appeared in the April 2010 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, is reprinted here before the stamp listings begin. He introduces readers to Polar postal history, going beyond the stamps themselves.

The stamps of the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT) begin with the 1957 issue and run through 2009. The names of the printers are shown and any distinctive printing format such as se-tenant is identified. The British Antarctic Territory (BAT) stamps appear chronologically from 1963 to 2009. The Falkland Island Dependencies (FID) cover those so designated (1946-1956) as well as Graham Land (1938-1952), South Orkney Islands (1938-1952), and South Shetland Islands (1904-1944).

The French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF, which is the abbreviation for Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises) issues are much more numerous and run from 1955 to 2009. Because of the great number of TAAF stamps, a useful design index is presented that will be appreciated by topical and thematic collectors. Under Antarctic Expeditions are the stamps of New Zealand overprinted "King Edward VII Land" and "Victoria Land" in 1908 and 1911 respectively. The final stamp listing is that of the Ross Dependency from 1957 to 2008.

Two resources of interest to Polar philatelists conclude the catalog. One is a listing of the current research stations in Antarctica with base name, country that runs it, date established, and area where each is located. The list is separated into Summer Stations, Permanent Stations, and Unmanned Observation Stations. The other list is that of Polar Post Offices and their locations. Many are currently in operation although the Little America post office, used during the 1933-1935 Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition is mentioned.

This new niche catalog should serve those interested in exploring the world of Polar Philately, especially novices who wish to acquaint themselves with the subject and thematic collectors seeking material that might fit their specific interests. The stamp listings follow the usual catalog arrangement and the stamps are shown in color. Whether Stanley Gibbons will continue to issue this catalog will depend on the amount of interest it generates among collectors.

-Alan Warren

---

## Linn's 2008 U.S. Stamp Yearbook

**Linn's 2008 U.S. Stamp Yearbook** by George Amick. *Linn's Stamp News*, Sidney, Ohio, 2009. Hardbound and softbound, 6 x 9 inch, 432pp., illus. Available for \$40 softcover (Item # LIN85) and \$52 hardcover (Item # LIN 85H) plus S&H from: Amos Hobby Publishing, 911 Vandemark Road, Sidney, OH 45365.

The 2008 *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook* was released in October and coming after the sold out 2007 25<sup>th</sup> edition, *Linn's* has hit another home run.

As in past years, author George Amick documents every commemorative, definitive and special stamp, postcard, postal sta-

Continued Page 6



tionery and duck stamp issue. He records all the technical data and provides behind the scenes background information such as interviews with stamp designers, comments from U.S. Postal Service officials, examples of preliminary designs, coverage of first day ceremonies and much more. There are even listings for varieties and plate numbers and an in-depth year in review section that highlights key stories and issues.

The 432-page volume is packed with color illustrations (introduced in the 2007 edition) to support Amick's easy to read narrative. In 2008, the U.S. Postal Service issued 178 collectible varieties of stamps and postal stationery. Almost all have a tale to tell.

A few of the interesting background stories include: the difficulties in finding a dignified solution for the Alzheimer's Awareness stamp; how designers keep track of the stamps in the Scenic American Landscapes series to make certain that all part of the United States and its territories are represented; how the 60-stamp state and territorial map series was inspired by the hugely popular U.S. Mint state quarters program; how CSAC reviewed at least 18 Latin Jazz designs, including several that appeared on commercial art, before deciding on one of the year's ugliest stamps; and how a wrong phone number on the liner paper for the self-adhesive duck stamp pane brought collectors to a phone-sex line.

I find that one of the most interesting parts of the book is examining the many preliminary stamp designs that were not chosen. It's amazing how often the designers and CSAC come up with the best design and when they miss the mark, you can see what their other choices were.

Begun in 1983 as a 237-page volume, the first five editions of the *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook* were authored by Fred Boughner. Amick, an editor with *The Times* of Trenton, New Jersey, took over in 1988. The latest edition marks his 21st contribution to the series.

The wealth of information makes this book a one-stop reference for 2008 stamp issues. If you collect modern U.S. stamps, this book deserves a place on your shelves.

-Peter Martin

---

## First 2010 Michel Catalogues Released Austria Specialized

Michel is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2010 and the company's first three catalogs of the new year were released in March.

All Michel catalogs are published in Germany in the 152 x 203mm (6 x 8 inch) softbound format with mostly color illustrations in the Europe series and black and white illustrations in the Overseas series. For each catalog, the page count, ISBN number and publisher's list price are provided. In all volumes, the text and descriptions are in German but the clear illustrations and format make it easy to use by anyone.

***Michel Österreich-Spezial 2010 (Austria Specialized)* by the Michel Catalog editors. Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH, Unterschleissheim, Germany, 2010. Softbound, 6 x 8 inch, 640 pp., Color illus., pale orange cover, ISBN 978-3-87858-048-5. The list price is 52 euros.**

Austria is one of the most popular collecting areas in German

speaking countries and has a strong following in the United States. The Michel Austria Specialized Catalog goes far beyond the contents of the standard catalogue (Middle Europa Vol. 1) and covers additional specialized areas.

The catalog is laid out according to collecting areas. Cataloging is chronological within each section. All Austrian stamps and postal stationery, starting in 1850 and to February 2010, are covered, including all classic and modern Austrian stamps from the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary (1850-1867), the Empire (1867-1918), the Republic of German Austria (1918-1922), the Republic of Austria from 1922-1945, and the German customs areas and the Republic of Austria from 1945. Also included are Lombardy and Venetia, the Austrian post offices on Crete, in the Levant and in China, the DDSG issues, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1879-1918 and the Austria-Hungarian field post offices.

Within each area, detailed information about vending machine stamps, coil stamps, stamp booklets, stamp packages, registered mail stamps, supplement values, judicial stamps, private order stamps, postage due stamps, premium labels, revenue stamps used for postage, telegraph stamps, fee stamps and newspaper stamps, is provided.

Also included are 90 pages of postal stationery and lists of miniature sheets, year sets, topicals and postal rates, as well as yearbooks, year collections, "Marken Buch & Co.," black prints, commemorative sheets and annual gifts of the VÖPh.

Almost all of the 5,600 images are in color and a comprehensive index makes subjects easy to find. Many of the 38,000 values reflect an upward trend, especially for varieties.

***Michel Australien-Ozeanien-Antarktis 2010 (Australia-Oceania-Antarctica)* by the Michel Catalog editors. Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH, Unterschleissheim, Germany, 2010. Softbound, 6 x 8 inch, 1792 pp., B&W illus., purple cover, ISBN 978-3-87858-061-4. The list price is 79 euros.**

The Michel Australia-Oceania-Antarctica Catalogue is Volume 7 in the Overseas series.

-Peter Martin

---

## Registered Mail of Norway

***Rekommanderte Norske Postforsendelser gjennom 200 År (Registered Norwegian Mail through 200 Years)* by Wilfred Wasenden. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 148 pages, 8 ½ by 12 inches, hardbound, in Norwegian, self-published by the author, Billingstad, Norway, 2008. ISBN 978-82-994725-1-7, approximately €55 plus postage from Wilfred Wasenden, Box 270, 1377 Billingstad, Norway.**

This is the third edition of the author's treatise on registered mail of Norway and much of it is based on his gold medal exhibit. He begins with how valuable mail was handled in the early days of the postal service and the use of the chart numbering system to record each letter. Then follow discussions of how registered mail was handled during certain periods such as 1817-1849, 1849-1855, and more specifically the use of markings during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These include the manuscript NB (*note bene*), "rekommanderes" or its abbreviation "recommend," "anbefalet," "chargé" (pertains to the Norwegian/French postal

Continued Page 7

convention), and “franco.”

The conditions under which these various manuscript, and later handstamped, markings applied to the handling of registered mail are defined. The discussion includes handling of registered official mail. Starting in 1883 rectangular handstamps with NORGE R were used and their various types are illustrated. There are six basic groups of such markings and their various formats are shown. A machine marking with this wording was introduced in 1904 and used into the 1930s.

In 1925 registered etiquettes or labels were introduced with the name of the town, a capital R, and the serial number. Rate tables are presented for registered domestic mail, letters to other Nordic countries, and registered letters to the rest of the world. Special conditions applied to registration of printed matter, post cards, air mail, express letters, and other classes of mail. Registered mail that was censored during the Second World War or sent from German field post offices is treated. Other special conditions include letter box (kassebrev) registered letters and special fees for bringing registered mail after the normal acceptance time.

The AR or Avis de Reception (return receipt) handling and the various post office forms used are also delved into. In short, just about everything one needs to know about registered mail of Norway is documented here. The rate tables are important and good color illustrations are used throughout. The book concludes with a bibliography for further study of this important subject.

-Alan Warren

### **Norway First Day Covers and Cachets**

***Norske Førstedagsbrev med Vignetter (Norway First Day Covers with Cachets)* by Egon Sjöberg. 68-page booklet plus CD with 730 pages in Swedish in PDF format, Skanfil AS, Norway, 2007. Approximately \$25 plus shipping from Skanfil AS, Box 230, 5504 Haugesund, Norway.**

This comprehensive listing of first day covers of Norway was compiled by Swedish collector and author Egon Sjöberg and published by the Norwegian dealer Skanfil. The introduction is in Swedish but the listings are easy to follow with dates and catalog numbers. Values are also shown for Norwegian first day covers from 1906 to 2006.

The booklet is 6 by 8 ½ inches and saddle-stitched. The introduction appears also on the CD and explains how the catalog is arranged. For all of the FDCs the stamps are identified by date of issue and the numbering system of the specialized Norwegian catalog *Norgeskatalogen*. Cachets begin to appear with the 1938 Tourist issue and in the booklet the cachet designs are numbered 1,2,3, etc. for each issue, and the image is described with two or three words.

The beauty of the CD is that the listing is very much expanded with color illustrations showing the cachets for each issue. The entire cover is not shown but just the design portion. In more



recent years where large cachets or all-over designs were used, the entire cover is illustrated.

The pages on the CD, which number over 700, do not bear page numbers except indirectly as afforded by the PDF format. The 2-part catalog is highly desirable not only from the point of cachet identification, but the fact that it is a priced catalog. The Swedish term “vignett” is used for cachet. Online FDC auction descriptions often do not show a cachet but simply identify it as Vignett 1 or 2, as listed in Sjöberg’s catalog. In the 1970s and 1980s, some Norwegian stamp issues have over a dozen different cachets.

In his introduction, the author points out that some cachets designed by stamp clubs and philatelic journals were occasionally used in other Nordic countries. For example Danish cachets may have been used for some Norwegian first day covers, and these are included in the listing. This catalog fills the need for comprehensive collecting of the FDCs of Norway in the same manner as the Mellone/Planty catalogs for United States issues.

-Alan Warren

### **LAPE Specialized Catalog of Finland**

***LAPE Special Stamp Catalogue 2010 (specialized catalog of Finland). 864 pages, 6 ¾ by 9 ¾ inches, perfect bound, in Finnish, English and Swedish, Philatelic Service of Finland, Turku, 2009. Available from Jay Smith & Associates, Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349, \$79.***

The previous edition of the LAPE catalog was from 2008 and had 80 fewer pages, attesting to the expansion of this new edition. The catalog begins with cancellations on Finnish covers starting with pre-stamp types. Then come the definitive and commemorative stamp issues with their varieties, and with pricing for first day covers for issues from 1931 and beyond.

Other listings include year-books and year sets, maximum cards, bus parcel stamps, field post issues, the areas of East Karelia, North Ingermanland, Karelia, and Aunus. Regular booklets and slot machine booklets are listed, the Frama stamps, Christmas seals, shipping company stamps, local posts of Helsinki and Tampere, railways stamps, revenues, perfins, postal stationery—in other words just about every back-of-the-book area that a serious collector of Finland desires.

One useful table is that of postal rates from 1875 to 2000, and another that lists special commemorative cancellations from 1920 to 1979. The stamps of Åland are also shown. The rather large page format yields an easy-to-read text and illustrations are in color. Collectors needing details beyond those listed here would need to resort to the Finnish handbooks and articles that exist largely in that language only.

-Alan Warren



## FACIT Nordic Specialized Catalog

**FACIT 2011 Special** (Facit specialized catalog of the Nordic countries). 944 pages, 6 ¾ by 9 ½ inches, perfect bound, Facit Förlags, Västerås, Sweden, 2010. ISBN 91-86564-67-6, \$79 plus shipping from Jay Smith & Associates, PO Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349; [www.jaysmith.com](http://www.jaysmith.com).

The latest edition of the specialized catalog of the Nordic countries continues to expand and has now reached 944 pages (vs. 912 in 2008). Finland and its related areas are not considered part of Scandinavia but are included in this catalog. Hence the term Nordic countries. 278 pages are devoted to Sweden alone. The other countries listed are Norway, Denmark, Faroes, Greenland, Danish West Indies, Iceland, Finland and Åland. The Finland section also includes its occupied areas like Aunus, East Karelia, North Ingermanland, and the short-lived independent state of Karelia. Other stamp-issuing entities appear under the parent country, for example Schleswig under Denmark, and Thule under Greenland.

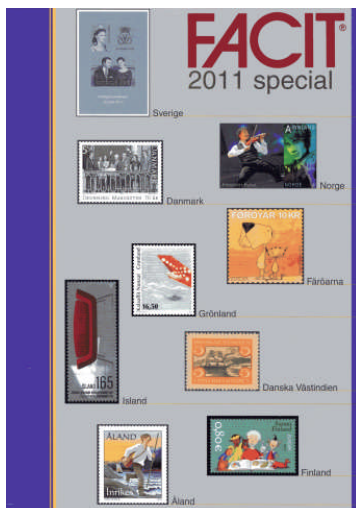
The "Special" designation is deserved, inviting serious collectors of any or all of these countries to use this "bible" of Nordic philately. The depth of treatment for many of these countries is revealed in the special listings of stamp booklets, first day covers, franking labels, military stamps, and other back of the book subjects.

There is also material, important to postal history collectors, such as listings of pre-stamp cancellations and markings, and rarity scales for letters from Denmark and Sweden to foreign destinations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Unfortunately there are some specialized areas that are not covered every year in this catalog, but fortunately were listed in earlier editions. The table of contents for this year's catalog indicates in which earlier editions these topics can be found.

Some of these areas are locals, revenues, reply stamps, Christmas stamps, and postal stationery of Sweden; Denmark's advertising pairs; Danish West Indies cancellations from 1809 to 1917; and covers and postal rates of Iceland. Excellent color illustrations are used throughout the new Facit except where varieties are discussed and black and white images are sufficient.

The stamp descriptions are in Swedish and English, making this catalog a useful resource that will serve many collectors. In fact having the stamps of so many countries treated in depth in one handy volume results in an excellent reference that will serve the owner for a number of years.

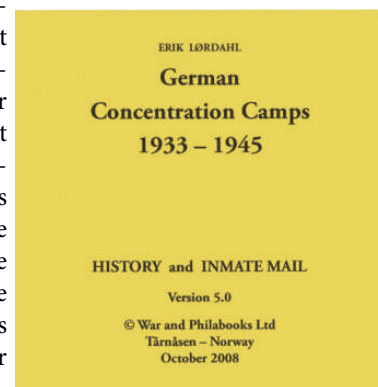
- Alan Warren



## German Concentration Camp Mail on Disk

**German Concentration Camps 1933-1945: History and Inmate Mail** by Erik Lørdahl. Compact Disc in Word™ 2003, War and Philabooks Ltd. AS, 2008. ISBN 82-995588-0-8 from War and Philabooks Ltd. AS, Gydasv. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway.

This compact disc is an expanded and updated version of the 2000 edition, and the number of pages increased from 700 to 1300. The text is in the English language. To publish a hard print copy would be expensive and so the CD format makes the work much more affordable. Concentration camps were not for prisoners of war or refugees but rather for ethnic or political groups that do not benefit from fair trials. Although concentration camps have existed since before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the most notorious are those created in Germany and its occupied territories under the Third Reich.



A short history of the concentration camps surveys five periods beginning in 1933 and lasting until the end of WW II in 1945. A timeline identifies significant events year by year. The organization of over seventy camps and key personnel are identified and a table provides location and opening and closing dates. A short bibliography completes this introductory chapter.

The next chapter describes the documents collected and shown, i.e. letters, the handling of mail, camp postal stationery, cachets and labels, stamps and cancellations, receipts, and telegrams among others. One of the larger files on the CD consists of collected articles about each camp, discussing camp history, censor marks, types of letters and stationery, and special cachets and labels. Tremendous detail is provided such as number of buildings in the camp, number of prisoners, cataloging of censor marks including illustrations, and even examples of forgeries.

Another file lists subcamps and the main ones they were associated with. Forgeries are dealt with in more detail here with separate files for many of the camps. Another file contains nine newsletters written by author Lørdahl after the first edition of his treatise, showing new discoveries.

One phenomenal file on this disc is a spreadsheet with over 10,000 documents (camp correspondence) listing the name of the prisoner, nationality, birth date, camp, and other details. This work is a very thorough compilation of data on the German concentration camps and prisoner mail. The black and white illustrations lend an immediacy (especially the letters and cards), and will help collectors to understand materials they assemble on concentration camp mail. The disc is a great resource for studying this aspect of World War II postal history.

-Alan Warren





Lloyd de Vries

# Posting Publicity The Trials and Tribulations of Distributing Press Releases to Online Media

As writers, most of us from time to time — and maybe more often — are asked to handle publicity for a philatelic organization or event. As Publicity Chairman of the American First Day Cover Society and the NAPEX and Americover shows, it's my job to not only get the information into the stamp collecting print media, but also the Internet venues.

When famed bank robber Willie Sutton was asked why he robbed banks, he allegedly replied, "That's where the money is." Most philatelic organizations are drawing the majority of their new members from the Internet, so if you want to reach a new audience, you go online.

Another advantage to the online media is the shorter deadlines. While it may take two weeks to get into a weekly newspaper, or two months for insertion in a magazine, a publicity release can appear online in a matter of minutes.

However, you may need a thick skin. Drive-by publicists are not always appreciated. What follows is my list of venues I hit, my experiences with them and some tips.

For many of these, you'll need to register before you can post your press releases. It's also a good idea to read some of the messages and discussions to get an idea of the community in that venue.

In almost all cases, you have to post the press release yourself. The moderators won't do it for you. If you don't want to join a venue yourself, you'll have to find someone else to do it for you. So here's my rundown of the places to post press releases online.

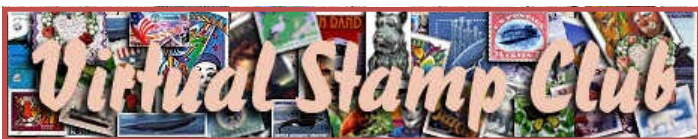
## The Virtual Stamp Club

[forums.delphiforums.com/stamps/messages](http://forums.delphiforums.com/stamps/messages)

This is the one I run, so of course it's wonderful, vibrant and charming. Seriously, I set it up as a news and information venue, so we actually do welcome press releases. You can simply paste in your text, or dress it up with basic HTML, or use the Delphi-Forums interface to dress it up.

Be aware that sometimes Microsoft Word text or text from another word processing program will create strange symbols, so preview your message before posting it, or at least check it after posting it. If the strange symbols appear, save the message as a plain text file (.txt), which strips out all the proprietary code from the word processing software. Close the file, reopen it, and it should now paste into the message form without problems.

The VSC message board is threaded, meaning initial messages and their replies are all grouped together.



## eBay Stamps Chat

[chatboards.ebay.com/chat.jsp?forum=1&thread=28](http://chatboards.ebay.com/chat.jsp?forum=1&thread=28)

This is one of the simpler boards to use. It's not threaded. You log in, plug in your text, and click "Save my message." You can

include links, using basic HTML code, and even some formatting, such as bold and color. If you want to check how your posting will look, go first to [www.isdntek.com/demo/practiceposter.htm](http://www.isdntek.com/demo/practiceposter.htm). When you've entered your text and coding, you want the first button, "Chat Preview." You can copy the final version from there to your computer's clipboard, and then paste it into the purple box on the Stamps Chat page.

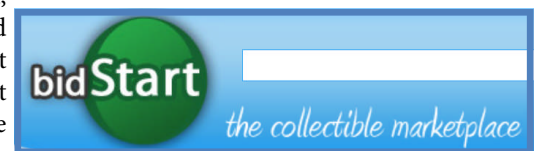
However, be aware: If someone doesn't like your message, he or she can get it removed, anonymously, by clicking on "report." eBay then automatically removes the message, without any further human intervention. There is no appeal, there is no recourse, and you are sent a warning that if your aberrant behavior continues, you could be kicked off eBay. Someone there either doesn't like me, or first day covers, or a charming combination of both, because this happens to me fairly often.

## BidStart General Philatelic Forum

[www.bidstart.com/](http://www.bidstart.com/)

Go to BidStart and click on "Community." This is a phpBB message board,

so standard HTML doesn't work, but many online participants



like this format better than the one Delphi and About use. As we used to say on the old dial-up bulletin boards, "YMMV" ("Your Mileage May Vary").

## StampBoards Discussion Corner

<http://www.stampboards.com/viewforum.php?f=13>

This, too, is a phpBB. It's one of the more active boards, based in Australia, so keep in mind the international audience. That's actually good practice everywhere, because the Internet knows few geopolitical boundaries.

StampBoards is threaded, and the moderators insist you post each press release about the organization or event in the same thread. For example, all NAPEX 2011 press releases will go into the "NAPEX 2011" discussion, even if one is talking about the prospectus and another about the banquet's menu choices.



## Frajola's Board for Philatelists

[www.philamercury.com/board.php](http://www.philamercury.com/board.php)

This is an unthreaded message board intended for serious postal history collectors. The owner, Richard Frajola, usually tolerates press releases, even on other philatelic subjects, but he seems to prefer that you post only the beginning of the press

Posting Continued Page 10

Posting from Page 9

release, and then link to the rest of it somewhere else, such as your organization's website. It has a steady community, and you'll recognize some of the names from scholarly philatelic journals.



## About.com Stamps

[stamps.about.com/](http://stamps.about.com/)

There's not much traffic here; sometimes I'll come back after two weeks and find that I'm also the most recent previous visitor. You can use basic HTML to dress up your messages. If the interface looks similar to DelphiForums, which hosts The Virtual Stamp Club message board, that's no coincidence. Delphi's parent company supplies the software for the About.com forums.



## Yahoo! Groups

[groups.yahoo.com](http://groups.yahoo.com)

These function both like message boards and e-mail distribution lists. Messages are mailed to group members, either individually or once a day as a "digest." (It's not a really a digest, because the full text of all messages is included; it's a compilation.) Both members and non-members can also go to the Yahoo! Groups website to read messages and post files and photo albums. Most groups restrict posting of messages, files and photos to members to limit spam.

There are dozens of stamp collecting

-related Yahoo! Groups, but most are dead. Others are just buy/sell/trade bazaars, with few replies, so I wonder if anyone actually reads them.

The U.S. Stamps group is reasonably active, and has discussions, as does Stampcentral (one word). I also post to worldstampsclub, although it's not very active and, again, seems more interested in trading than information. You can post messages to these groups either by sending e-mail from the address you registered with Yahoo! or by going to the website and click on Messages/Post.

## Usenet Newsgroups

The Internet existed before the World Wide Web, and until the early 1990s, the Usenet Newsgroups were the heart of Internet discussion. But the newsgroups don't display pictures or different fonts; they're pretty much plain text, and the times have passed them by. The main stamp collecting newsgroup now seems to be basically the same three or four collectors talking, and all sorts of spam, from stamp spam to porn spam. Half the time, I don't bother posting my press releases in Usenet any more.


If you have a program that handles newsgroups, like Thunderbird from Mozilla, that can be the easiest way to post and read these newsgroups, once you find out how your Internet Service Provider accesses Usenet — if it still accesses Usenet newsgroups. Chances are, the server setting is news.yourISP.suffix. In my case, that's news.optonline.net, since I use Optimum Online.

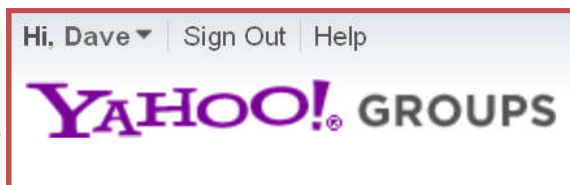
Simpler may be to go to groups.google.com to find the stamps newsgroups. But when I plugged in "stamps," I got just two groups, neither of which was the main one, rec.collecting.stamps.discuss. I got better results by specifying the group's name.

Other groups that may be of interest are rec.collecting.postal-history, rec.collecting.stamps.marketplace (for buy/sell/trade notices, not that that stops anyone any more from posting commerce in "discuss"), and alt.collecting.stamps. There are more groups, but the activity tails off rapidly.

Discussions are threaded, but there are no moderators, and group members are proud of that. Anything goes! The "rec" newsgroups have charters that outline their purposes, but, again, there's no one to enforce those charters, except individual members. The "alt" groups don't even have charters, and can really be wild.

One more bit of advice: I usually go back a day or so after posting a press release, sometimes sooner, to see if there are any questions or comments on it. It serves two purposes: One, it answers the questions. But it also shows you're a member of that community, which is good public relations.

I doubt my list is complete. If you know of a site that we philatelic flacks should be visiting, please let me know: [stamps@pobox.com](mailto:stamps@pobox.com). 



## Foot from Page 3

Brunswick because their boom, bust, echo profile is about five years along."


As for his collecting interests, Foot just completed an impressive 150-item, 80-page display on Thursday Island, a speck of land in the Torres Strait just north of Australia.

His other collecting love is also something he's captured in a philatelic display. Beginning in 1970, this obscure hobby has taken him across the world and back, where the actual event he's trailing lasts mere minutes.

"I chase eclipses of the sun as a hobby. They could potentially happen twice a year. Often, the shadow misses the Earth, but about once every 18 months, the shadow hits the earth and races across the earth and the tip of the shadow touches the Earth and you have to position yourself on that path. And then I try and get to the post office to get a cancellation on the day of the eclipse."

He's witnessed 19 eclipses, including ones in French Polynesia, China, Kenya, Indonesia, Mongolia and the Philippines. Only twice has he been clouded out, but he adds, that's not so bad because his consolation prize is a nice holiday.

Foot was bitten with the bug for eclipse-chasing while at Harvard. That's when one descended on the east coast of the U.S. As for why he started pursuing eclipses, he says simply: "It was a crazy thing to do. I got hooked."

Reprinted with permission from *Canada Stamp News*. 

# The Literature of Postage Meters, a Greying World And How the USPS Actually Helped Us

David Crotty

Postage meter usage started with short tests as early as 1897 and 1913 in the U.S. and 1900 in Norway. New Zealand is the first country to continuously use postage meters starting in 1904. The U.S. started full commercial use in the in 1920, Great Britain in 1922 and Canada in 1923.

The earliest catalog efforts can be traced back to Steiger's early works in 1930. Most of the postage meter stamp literature is listed in the Bibliography of the Meter Stamp Society website and all of it is available at the APRL. The first rather complete international catalog was prepared by S.D. Barfoot and Werner Simon in 1953. This effort for worldwide coverage was not repeated until the 2005 International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog, Figure 1, by Joel Hawkins and Rick Stambaugh. Rick is currently moving the catalog to Wikibooks. Joel and Rick had previously published the United States Postage Meter Stamp Catalog in 1994 following on the work of previous U.S. catalogers, and provided an update in 2003, but these are rather out of date now. Rick hopes to provide a U.S. specialized catalog on Wikibooks in time.

Similar cataloging efforts were published in Great Britain, Canada, Italy, France, Germany and other countries over the years. Again most are mentioned in the MSS website Bibliography.

There were several US, Canadian and other country newsletters published through the years. Many articles were published in a variety of philatelic newspapers and magazines. In addition to the APRL online catalog, two of the better bibliographies can be found in Hawkins and Stambaugh's U.S. and International catalogs mentioned above. A number of authors around the world continue to provide news of their countries, as listed in the MSS Bibliography or Link list. One should not ignore the Italian society AICAM which enjoys a membership of some 10,000 enthusiastic collectors and has published almost 400 books since 1982.

On September 15, 1935 Henry O. Meisel of Rockford, Illinois organized the American Postage Indicia Society. Eventually it became known as AMPS. Henry's philatelic work dates back into the 1920's when he raced his Indian motorcycle and com-

memorated the occasions by carrying covers in his saddle bags. These covers can occasionally be found in auctions. Meisel moved to Clintonville, Wisconsin and from there produced a newsletter to a membership claimed to be about 1200 through the 1960's. The most interesting part of this is that the newsletters often arrived in covers franked with philatelically altered postage meter prints or artistic permits, sometimes from international locations. Meisel covers, Figure 1, can often be found on eBay and other auctions.

The literature of the Meter Stamp Society dates to the first Bulletin sent out by William Pamperien in August 1948. The issue frequency was 2 to 11 issues a year until 1988 when new editor Rick Stambaugh settled it

down to being a quarterly. The MSS claims to be the successor of several earlier clubs but I have personally never seen any publications from those groups.

The MSS was never quite so colorful as AMPS and never prepared artsy covers until this writer prepared a few for our meeting at Washington 2006. The Bulletin has always been a non-sense listing of meter types found and updates on the group's meter type listings. The first 7 issues were typed 8-1/2 x 11 mimeographed sheets. Issue 8 started the folded half sheet booklet that was the mainstay until 1992 when it was converted to a full 8 1/2 x 11 booklet format. This writer has never figured out how they did that half page booklet. Some issues were dedicated to U.S. or Canadian townlists or member rosters. There were about 600 members at one time. The Bulletin has always tried to have some international content and is much more so today. The entire run of issues is available on CD in searchable PDF format, and an index of all articles is on the CD and on the MSS website.

The collecting habits of members changed over the years. Originally it was possible have a "number collection" of all meters. That was possible when the total number of postage meters in operation was in the hundreds. It became more difficult when some types of postage meters were counted in the many 10's of thousands. The continued success of Pitney Bowes made complete collection a challenge but that did not stop some collectors. A group of MSS members published a catalog last year, building on 50 years of work, on the MSS website showing virtually every meter number of the early meter types including the names of the companies that used the meters with the earliest and latest known use. I helped them put that book together and it came to

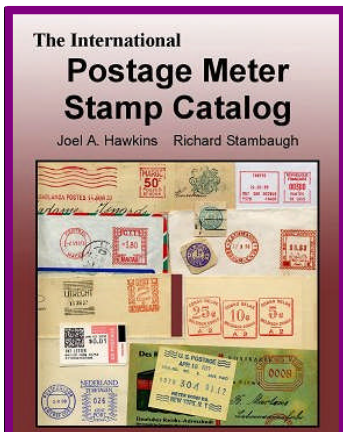


Fig. 1. International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog

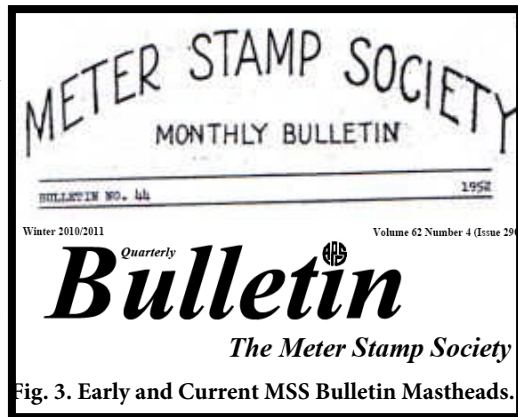


Fig. 3. Early and Current MSS Bulletin Mastheads.

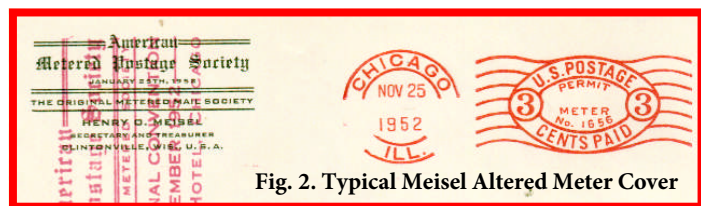


Fig. 2. Typical Meisel Altered Meter Cover

Meters Continued Page 12



360 pages. These guys are working on the 2nd Edition with more complete listings and more of the design types. I expect to see them come through with that this spring

The MSS almost died out a couple of times and would be a lot greyer today (I'm one of the younger members) except for an odd occurrence. The USPS saved the MSS from extinction by authorizing "PC Postage™" in 1996. This trademarked postage opened the floodgates to a wide range of postage payment methods. It now also calls it Custom Postage.

In the U.S. all "PC Postage" carries an Intelligent Barcode Indicia (IBI) as was recently discussed in the *American Philatelist*. These forms of payment range from vending machine prints to postage printed at a personal computer, and finally postage containing customized images including the mailer's own photographs. The interesting part is that the USPS adamantly insists that all these postage payment items are "meters" and as such are not to be postmarked. All other countries call them Stamps.

That's where the MSS comes in. People who collect "Computer Vended Postage", or CVP as it is known to collectors, are younger and often live internationally. These people also collect the CVP stamps (aka Framas) that are quite commonly available all over the world except in the Americas. An MSS member generously provides a regular column keeping us informed of the vended CVP stamps from around the world.

This member, Karim Roder, recently published a catalog of USA CVP "meter" stamps in his native German: *USA: Postwertzeichen mit variablem Wertaufdruck (1989-2010)*, Lulu.com (2010). (*Postage stamps printed with variable value*). This catalog covers U.S. stamps that are printed at a vending machine or at a personal computer. This realm of stamps may or may not have a custom image that is supplied by the vendor. There are a few examples where the user's image is used.



Fig. 4. U.S. CVP Catalog.

The other type of U.S. stamp is generally ordered online and printed by the vendor to be mailed to the user. The user may supply his/her own photograph or artwork. The vendors also provide a wide range of other artwork that has included sports teams, American Idol stars and the like. This type of postage is cataloged by Charlie Gore at his ephemera website: [www.ephemera4u.com/](http://www.ephemera4u.com/).

One CVP area that is especially active is Taiwan. Several catalogs have been published for these stamps, again listed in the MSS Bibliography. It is possible that a worldwide CVP catalog will appear soon. The only impediment seems to be that the authors do have to tend to making a living.

Approximately 45 countries around the world provide some form of customized (customised in all but USA English) postage. Although none of these countries have quite the diversity of custom postage forms as the US, the list makes for an enormous collecting and literature opportunity that has not yet been tapped. The MSS Bulletin hopes to provide some coverage of this growing area.



## Random Notes APS Meeting at Charleston

Lloyd de Vries

There were no American Philatelic Research Library Associate trustees at the show.

American Philatelic Society president Wade Saadi reported that 2010 was a good year financially for the APS and APRL. The two societies stopped balancing their budgets with donations and 57% of the depreciation was funded. Wade said that was the first time any of the depreciation had been funded. He paid tribute to the sacrifices by the APS/APRL staff.

"Now we're on a good course," he said. Both boards and the Staff were in agreement on the belt-tightening measures. The goal now is to pay down the \$900,000 debt on the property over the next five years. That's not all the Societies' debt, but the biggest mortgage on the property.

Steve Rod, representing the Board of Vice Presidents, declared that the APS membership card is like a credit card, debit card and status card, rolled into one. It states that members are trustworthy.

The BVP has considered 15 cases since August, many related to the Sales Circuits. He said there had been two expulsions in connection with the Circuits, but did not say how many expulsions overall.

APS/APRL attorney Virginia Eisenstein announced there is no litigation pending against either group. That news was greeted with applause.

Wade said the APS board meets at least once a month, mostly by telephone, but has not met in-person since StampShow in August.

Executive director Ken Martin said there are very few non-profits that can balance their budgets without using donations. He also reported that all non-operating funds increased during 2010. The APS' net assets went from \$1.8 to \$2.9 million dollars, while the APRL (the actual owner of the "Match Factory" property) saw its net assets rise from \$4.7 to \$4.8 million.

The construction on the space that Graymont will lease is ahead of schedule. The country's third-largest lime company may begin moving in next month. The APRL has negotiated a 10-year lease, with two 5-year options.

The APRL is talking to other potential tenants for the remaining rental space. One of those prospects may take the remaining 10,000 square feet, and that would enable finishing the exterior of the entire complex, including the final roof and windows.

Wade added that the Graymont lease pays more than the payments on the mortgage taken to make that building ready.

Bill Bauer's estate brought in \$800,000 in 2010 (as reported in another thread).

To offset the reduction in staff, the APS/APRL has increased the use of volunteers. Some of those volunteers work from home. Those interested should contact the APS/APRL.

The APS published the Large Banknote Guide in late 2010, and it is almost sold out already. Ken says sales have been "phenomenal."

The On The Road education programs now precede 10 World Series of Philately shows. The courses are offered in the day immediately before the WSP shows open.

Notes continued Page 13

# Shreve, Siegel Produce More Superb Reference Catalogs

Peter Martin

## Auction Catalogs as Literature

In an article in the Fourth Quarter 2009 *Philatelic Communicator* I discussed the concept of auction catalogs as literature and provided top examples to make the point. I noted that Spink Shreves Galleries, Dallas and New York, and Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, New York, were the key proponents of catalogs that fall into the literature category.

Well, since the publication of that article, the two firms have continued to outdo themselves.

Siegel's December 5, 2009, auction of *The Pony Express: The Collection Formed by Thurston Twigg-Smith* highlights the firm's specialty of providing extensive background information for classic U.S. issues.

In this case, not only are there greatly expanded descriptions for the 63 lots in the sale, but there is a scholarly 30-page article by Siegel President Scott R. Trepel, replete with historical illustrations and maps, to open the catalog. There's even a Pony Express Route and Telegraph Expansion pull-out map inserted in a pouch attached to the inside back cover. Combined with the exceptional material that is individually illustrated, this hardbound catalog is essential reading for any Pony Express collector.

Then, in January 2010, Spink Shreves showcased their exceptional production quality with the release of the three volume *The Floyd E. Risvold Collection: American Expansion & the Journey West*.

This is the finest set of auction catalogs that I have seen. Everything is first class, from the three different catalog covers that incorporate insets and embossing, to the distinctive end papers, high quality paper and binding and the matching slipcase.

Naturally only an exceptional collection would warrant such a treatment. As Spink Shreves President Charles Shreve described it, "This is the most important postal history auction in a generation and covers more collecting fields than any other."

And indeed it does cover a variety of fields because Risvold pulled together documents and artifacts of all descriptions to tell his story. In fact, the scope is so broad that it required three volumes. Volume 1 covers Exploration and War; Volume 2, Special Collections and Volume 3, Western Expansion. To help collectors sort out their areas of interest, a four-page pullout cross-reference index is provided.

The catalogs follow a chronological arrangement and the expanded descriptions help collectors to follow the journey that Risvold's hand-selected items laid out. From swords and guns, to family correspondences and slavery documents, to maps, presidential free franks, Pony Express mail and autographed

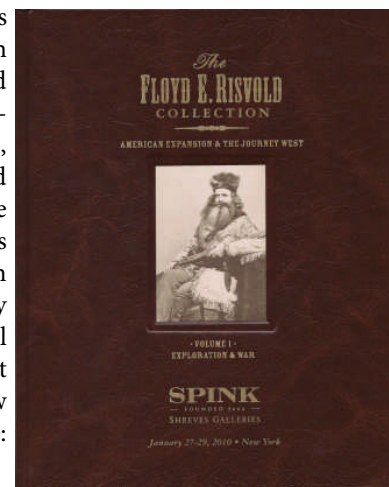
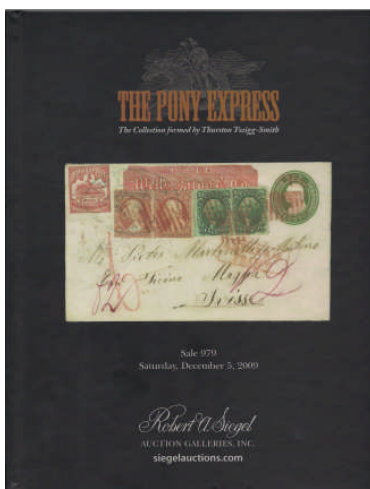
letters from Western pioneers, this collection is nirvana for Western Americana enthusiasts.

Shreve said he wanted the catalog "to read like a history book." He's succeeded and the fully illustrated catalog will be one that any history buff will enjoy. Expecting a huge demand, Shreve had extra catalogs printed and there are still a few available for \$125 postpaid.

Both firms had other outstanding auction catalogs in 2010.

Some Siegel examples include: The Louis Grunin Collection of Illustrated Covers (Sale 985), The Raymond Vogel Collection, Part Two (Sale 998) and The Beginning of Adhesive Postage in the United States (Sale 999). For information about catalog availability contact: Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, 60 East 56th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10022; Phone: (212) 753-6421

Other outstanding Spink Shreves catalogs include: The William H. Gross Collection Western Europe and its Colonies featuring Important Postage Stamps and Postal History, the Joseph Hackmey Collection of Ceylon, Part II, and the Nathan Liberman Collection featuring United States Essays & Proofs, Postage Stamps and Errors. For information about catalog availability contact: Spink Shreves Galleries, 3100 Monticello, Ave., Suite 925, Dallas, TX 75205 or call (800) 556-7826.



## Nominations from Page 1

Council members Ernest E. Fricks, David A. Kent, and Robert P. Odenweiller do not expire until 2013

Those interested in standing for election as an officer or as a member of the Council should contact Peter D. Martin, P.O. Box 463, Naugatuck, CT 06770, or by e-mail at [pmartin2525@yahoo.com](mailto:pmartin2525@yahoo.com). The election ballot will be included in the Second Quarter 2011 issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. The officers and Council members who are elected shall assume office at the end of WU#30 meeting held during the APS annual convention, August 11-14, 2011, in Columbus, Ohio.

## Notes from Page 12

The APS Facebook group now has 1388 fans/members, while the Linked In group has 245.

There are seven candidates for Director-at-Large (four seats are open). The other positions in this election are not contested. (I'm told that at Saturday's Candidates Forum, there were just 6 candidates, and a handful of voters.)

APS treasurer Dan Walker and APS secretary Steve Zwillinger were not present at this show or the meeting. Both are either on their way to or already at the International show in India.

# Chicagopex 2010 Literature Palmares

## Judges:

Thomas Mazza, Steven Schumann and Roger Quinby

## Grand Award for Philatelic Literature

*Ten-Cent 1869 Covers, A Postal Historical Survey*,  
Michael Laurence, author

## Gold

*A Postal History of the Prisoners of War and Civilian  
Internees in East Asia during the Second World War*,  
Vol. 5, David Tett, author  
*Sicilia 1859 Comparative Plates of Stamps for the First Time in  
Colours*, Vaccari SRL, editor  
*The History of the Post Offices in Barbados*, Edmund A. Bay-  
ley, author  
*Ten-Cent 1869 Covers, A Postal Historical Survey*, Michael  
Laurence, author  
*Philately of Switzerland: an Introductory Handbook*, Richard  
T. Hall, author  
*Trinidad, A Philatelic History to 1913*, Peter Ford, editor  
*The American Revenuer*, Vol. 62, Kenneth Trettin, editor  
*The Confederate Philatelist*, Vol. 52, Randy Neil, editor

## Vermeil

*Paper Ephemera Promoting Colonialism During the Third  
Reich* CD Rom, J. H. Manchester, author/editor/  
publisher  
*The Maritime Postmarks of the Danish Kingdom*, Stefan Dan-  
ielski & Ernst Schilling, authors  
*The Postage Stamps of Batéken*, Wolfgang Baldus, author  
*Congress Book 2010*, Kenneth Trettin, editor  
*New Zealand Postal Notes 1886-1986*, Jack Harwood, author  
*Italian Pertins 2009, Catalogue of Trade perforations on  
Stamps of the Italian Area*, Vaccari SRL, editor

*First Days*, Vol. 54, Richard Sine, editor  
*The Posthorn*, Vol. 66, Paul Albright, editor  
*Mexicana*, Vol. 58, Michael D. Roberts, editor  
*NJPH, The Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society*,  
Vol. 37, R. G. Rose & J. R. Walton, editors  
*The Israel Philatelist*, Vol. 60, Donald Chafetz, editor

## Silver

*Cover Story*, M. I. Basaran, author  
*Catalogue of Zeppelin Mail of Italy 9 Italian Colonies, San Ma-  
rino, Vatican City 1929-1939*, Vaccari SRL, editor  
*Swiss Post International Activity in Italy*, Charles LaBlonde,  
author  
*Fil-Italia - The Journal of the Italy and Colonies Study Circle*,  
Vol. 35-36, Andy C. Harris, editor  
*Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin*, Vol. 36, Graham  
Mark, editor

## Silver – Bronze

*211 Days in Space Anatolin Berezovoy, the diary, mail and  
history, 13 May-20 December, 1982*, Vaccari SRL, edi-  
tor  
*The "St Aylott" Collection of Newfoundland*, Yohann Tan-  
guay & Luc Doucet, editors  
*South Atlantic Chronicle*, Vol. 33, John D. Coyle, editor  
*Dakota Collector*, Vol. 26, Gary Anderson & Ken Stach,  
editors  
*Coil Line*, Vol. 22-23, Ronald Blanks, editor

## Bronze

*Barack Obama on Worldwide Stamps*, Melvin Morris, au-  
thor  
*Scribbles (Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library)*,  
Vol. 17, Ronald Hill, editor



## PHILATELIC COMMUNICATOR ADVERTISING RATES

We can accept camera-ready copy or create an ad for you. Color is free!

**Full Page — \$80 • 7.33 x 10 inches (44 x 60 picas)**

**Half Page — \$55 • Vertical 3.6 x 9.5 inches (21p6 x 57 picas);  
Horizontal 7.33 x 4.7 inches (44 x 28p6 picas)**

**Quarter Page — \$35 • 3.6 x 4.6 inches (21p6 x 28 picas)**

**Eighth Page — \$20 • 3.6 x 2.25 inches (21p6 x 13p6 picas)**

**Deadlines January 15, April 15, July 15, October 15**

**CONTACT DAVID E. CROTTY • DECROTTY@YAHOO.COM**





## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

### New Members

January 7, 2011.

- 1981 Richard L. Hall, 1611 Olmsted Drive, Asheville, NC 28803-1937. <rtravis@alum.mit.edu>. Author: *Swiss Stamps: Something for Everyone* (American Helvetica Philatelic Society); *United States Specialist Index, Volumes 1-60* (U.S. Stamp Society); Columnist: *Tell* (Journal of the American Helvetica Philatelic Society). Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.
- 1982 Jerald A. Floyd, 8421 Prairie Rose Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76123. Columnist: "Texas Connections," *Texas Philatelist*. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.
- 1983 Myron S. Kavalgian, 141 Boston Post Road, Old Tyme, CT 06371-1303. <mkavalgian141@comcast.net>. Formerly independent publisher's representative for three national societies. Sponsor: George Griffenhagen.

### Reinstated Members

- 1544 Larry Goldberg, P.O. Box 7170, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-7170. Author: *Post Office Identification Handbook Series*; Former Editor: *EAX* (East Africa Exchange); *George VI*; *Precancel Canada* (BNAPS Precancel Study Group).

### Change of Address

- 0872 Millard H. Mack, 302 Compton Hills Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45215.
- 1243 Dr. Dane S. Claussen, 2101 Naco Court, Las Vegas, NV 89102.
- 1670 George J. Kramer, 1701 Captains Way, Jupiter, FL 33477-4045.
- 1858 Allan W. Glennon, 403 Russel Ave., Apt 107, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2819.
- 1904 Jeremy A. Lifsey, 4711 South Himes Avenue, Apt. 2106, Tampa, FL 33611-2628.
- 1915 Daniel Piazza, 2505 Kayhill Lane, Bowie, MD 20715-2706.
- 1954 Donald James Chenevert, Jr., 6713 North Sumas Road, Edwards, IL 61528.

### Contributions

- 1511 Robert D. Rawlins, Healdsburg, California (\$5.00)

### Resignations

- 1662 Alvin R. Kantor, Mercer Island, Washington.
- 1815 J. J. Danielski, Toronto, Canada.
- 1833 Peter Newroth, Victoria, BC, Canada.
- 1905 Alfred A. Carroccia, West Seneca, New York.
- 1906 George McGowan, East Schodack, New York.
- 1950 John S. Withers, Hamden, Connecticut.

### About Writers Unit #30

The purpose of the APS Writers Unite #30 is to encourage and assist philatelic communication, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to any philatelic writer, columnist, editor or publisher, as well as anyone interested in philatelic communication.

## Join Us Today

Membership includes a subscription to *The Philatelic Communicator*. Applications received before October 1 will be recorded as members for that calendar year and will receive all four issues of *The Philatelic Communicator* for that year. Applications received on or after October 1 will be recorded as members for the following calendar year. An application may be downloaded at [www.wu30.org](http://www.wu30.org). Existing members are encouraged to duplicate the form and give it to potential members.

## Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

USPS ZIP Code Addresses.....	\$20.00
Canada and Mexico.....	\$22.50
All Other Addresses... ..	\$25.00

Payment must be made in U.S. Funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order, payable to the APS Writers Unite #30. Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes by certified mail.

## Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of address changes to ensure that you receive each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator* without delay. This will also save WU#30 several dollars in USPS charges for address correction and for reshipping the issue.



## 2011 Literature Exhibits

NAPEX June 3-5, 2011, McLean, Virginia.

[www.napex.org](http://www.napex.org).

APS StampShow August 11-14, 2011, Columbus Ohio.

[www.stamps.org/StampShow](http://www.stamps.org/StampShow).

CHICAGOPEX November 18-20, 2011, Itasca, Illinois,

[www.chicagopex.com/id12.html](http://www.chicagopex.com/id12.html)

## Writers Unit Hall of Fame

It is time for this year's Hall of Fame Nominations. The WU #30 Hall of Fame honors individuals for excellence in philatelic writing and editing. It is the unit's highest honor. Anyone may nominate a worthy individual. The majority of the narrative must specifically relate to the nominee's philatelic writing, editing and publishing credentials.

The nomination form is located on the WU #30 web site at [www.wu30.org/html/halloffame.html](http://www.wu30.org/html/halloffame.html). Send your nominations by the deadline of March 1, 2011 to Chairman, Writers Unit #30 Hall of Fame Committee, POB 463, Naugatuck, CT 06770.



**APS Writers Unit #30**  
**George B. Griffenhagen**  
**12226 Cathedral Drive**  
**Woodbridge, VA 22192-2232**

**PRSRT STD**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**MADRID, IA 50156**  
**PERMIT NO. 10**

**Return Service Requested**  
**Date Mail - Please Rush**

## Articles

## Departments

Bestselling Author Has Foot in Philatelic Door Kelly Putter—Canada Stamp News	1	President's View Peter Martin	3
Call for Nominations-Officers and Council Members	1	National Postal Museum Notes, Finding Tools at the National Postal Museum: Pontifical States Alan Warren	4
Kehr Award to Lloyd de Vries Foster Miller	3	Reviews-Print & Electronic, Books & Catalogs	
Posting Publicity-The Trials and Tribulations of Distributing Press Releases to Online Media Lloyd de Vries	9	Large U.S. Banknotes Identification Guide, Bob Pipes & Steve Einhorn.	4
The Literature of Postage Meters, a Greying World and how the USPS Actually Helped Us David Crotty	11	Stamp Catalog Antarctica, 1st Edition, Stanley Gibbons	5
Random Notes-APS Meeting at Charleston Lloyd de Vries	12	Linn's 2008 U.S. Stamp Yearbook, George Amick.	5
Shreve, Siegel Produce More Superb Reference Catalogs Peter Martin	13	Michel Osterrich-Spezial 2010, Michel Catalog	6
Chicagopex 2010 Literature Palmares	14	Registered Norwegian Mail through 200 Years, Wilfred Wasenden.	6
Writers Unit Hall of Fame	15	Norway First Day Covers with Cachets, Egon Sjoberg.	7
		LAPE Special Stamp Catalogue 2010 (Finland), Philatelic Service of Finland.	7
		FACIT 2011 Special (Nordic Countries), Facit Forlags.	8
		German Concentration Camps 1933-1945, Erik Lordahl.	8
		Secretary-Treasurer's Report George B. Griffenhagen	15
		Literature Exhibits 2011	15
		Expert Help for Writers and Editors Dane S. Claussen	16

### Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 immediate past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Note that Dr. Claussen has moved. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen, 2101 Naco Court, Las Vegas, NV 89102. Email: dsclaussen@hotmail.com.



### Material for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.

